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PAGE 1

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AGENT OF THE F.B.I. ACCUSED OF GIVING SECRETS TO SOVIET

2 EMIGRES ALSO ARRESTED

Bureau Asserts Its Operative Sold a Report About U.S. Intelligence Activities

By LESLIE MAITLAND WERNER
Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, Oct. 3 — An agent of the Federal Bureau of Investigation and two Soviet émigrés were arrested Tuesday night in California and accused of espionage. It is the first time an F.B.I. agent has been charged with spying.

The agent, Richard W. Miller, acknowledged that he had given one of the Russians a 25-page classified document, according to a bureau affidavit. The bureau said the document could give the Soviet intelligence agency "a detailed picture of F.B.I. and U.S. intelligence activities, techniques and requirements."

The affidavit, based on questioning of Mr. Miller, said that he planned to travel to Europe with one of the Soviet émigrés, Svetlana Ogorodnikova, and sell more classified documents. The woman's husband, Nikolay Ogorodnikov, was also arrested and charged in the case.

Agent Is Dismissed

Mr. Miller had been an agent for 20 years and worked in the Los Angeles office in the area of foreign counterintelligence, preventing foreign infiltration of American intelligence activities. The bureau's Director, William H. Webster, said today that that office routinely interviewed Soviet émigrés to the United States.

The 47-year-old agent was dismissed before his arrest on charges of a conspiracy to provide national defense information to a foreign government. He and the Soviet couple, who came to this country in 1973, could be sentenced to life imprisonment if convicted on the charges.

Mr. Webster described the arrest as providing a "very sad day for the F.B.I."

Damage to Be Assessed

"A great deal more work is still to be done to assess what got out," Mr. Webster said, adding that he hoped the bureau's swift action in breaking the case limited the potential damage done to American counterintelligence activities by the security breach.

"We know certain things," he said. "Obviously we don't know if we know all the things."

Attorney General William French

Smith also said he hoped that the "damage will be significantly limited" by the fact that the bureau was able to end the conspiracy before it had gone any further.

The bureau's affidavit, filed Tuesday in Federal District Court in Los Angeles, provides accounts of interviews with Mr. Miller conducted by other agents and by the bureau's chief polygrapher, who administers lie-detector tests.

Under questioning, Mr. Miller provided the details of his secret dealings with the Soviet couple. In one such interview, he said that Mrs. Ogorodnikova told him she was a major in the K.G.B., the Soviet intelligence and security agency.

Mr. Miller said he had had numerous meetings with Mrs. Ogorodnikova from May to September, according to the affidavit. He also told of meeting her husband to arrange payment of \$65,000 in return for the documents.

The agent said he had traveled in August with Mrs. Ogorodnikova to the Soviet Consulate in San Francisco, where he said he believed she delivered the classified report he had provided. At the time, he allowed her to take his badge and bureau credentials into the consulate so that she could prove to superiors that she was dealing with an actual agent.

On the return trip to Los Angeles, Mr. Miller is quoted as having said, Mrs. Ogorodnikova told him they had been followed and photographed by the K.G.B.

Possibly a Double Agent

The affidavit filed in court described Mrs. Ogorodnikova as having often provided the F.B.I. with information on the Soviet officials with whom she had contact. She was interviewed often, it

says, between February 1982 and August 1984, and spoke of dealings with high officials in the consulate in San Francisco, including the Consul General.

Bill Baker, assistant director of the F.B.I. for Congressional and public affairs, said today that from 1980 on, Mrs. Ogorodnikova, who is 34 and worked as a private nurse, cooperated with the bureau, providing what was regarded as good information.

There are indications, he said, that she was a double agent, a person who works for two opposing intelligence services simultaneously, providing information to one without the knowledge of the other. The bureau is now examining that possibility.

"She could have been playing both ends against the middle for her own financial benefit," Mr. Baker said, "or may actually have been working for the Soviet Union."

Security to Be Examined

In answering questions about the case today, Mr. Webster said that the bureau "will certainly see if more steps need to be taken" to maintain tight security over classified documents. He said he believed that security was already "very tight" but that "we will review all of our procedures."

He added, "I don't think this was so much a problem of procedure as a personal problem."

Counterintelligence work, the job of detecting and preventing foreign infiltration of United States intelligence operations and information, is the most opaque discipline in spying.

For example, American intelligence officials have debated for years without definitive resolution whether a Soviet "mole" operated at senior levels in the Central Intelligence Agency in the 1960's.

Although the C.I.A. and the military services have their own counterintelli-